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ABSTRACT

Secondary school English teachers and university teachers present ideas in this book for turning classrooms into places where students explore the issues that are important to them. The book integrates traditional and contemporary literary works, popular music, television, movies and videos, the World Wide Web, and student creations. It argues that a thematic approach to instruction provides teachers with an opportunity to individualize instruction without isolating students at either end of the classroom success spectrum. Thematic instruction allows students of varying abilities to focus on a common issue, through texts that differ in genre and difficulty. Chapters in the book are (1) "I AM: Coming to Know Thyself through Literature" (Elizabeth L. Watts); (2) "John Wayne, Where Are You? Everyday Heroes and Courage" (Pamela S. Carroll); (3) "A Teen-Age Crisis: Gangs and Violence" (Gail P. Gregg); (4) "Growing Strong Family Trees" (Pamela S. Carroll); (5) "Homelessness in Literature, the Media, and in Our Minds" (Gail P. Gregg and Michelle Tollentino-Davidson); (6) "America: Mother of Exiles" (Gail P. Gregg, Melinda Miller, and Nan Vollbracht); (7) "The Middle Passage" (Linda Spears-Bunton); and (8) "Aging: Our Understandings and Attitudes" (Larry S. Gordon). Each chapter contains a list of works cited and supplemental resources. (RS)

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